existing programmes, according to the convenience of poor patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The National TB Control Programme was reviewed in 1992 by an expert group and based on their findings Government of India evolved the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) which is at present covering about 220 million population.

A review of RNTCP was conducted jointly by Government of India, WHO, other international agencies and national experts from India in February, 2000. The review team concluded that RNTCP has been expanded rapidly over the past two years and it is being successfully implemented in the country. Patients are being accurately diagnosed and drug supply is regular and uninterrupted.

Another mid-term review of World Bank aided Revised National TB Control Programme will be conducted jointly by World Bank and Government of India in September, 2000.

The benefits of National TB Control Programme and RNTCP are being made available to all persons irrespective of their economic status. However, special efforts are being made to reach out to the poor and tribal populations, to enable them to have easy access to the benefits of the TB programmes.

Strengthening ISM and H

2244. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established the Deptt, of ISM and H under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; if so, the reasons and system-wise details of its functioning;

(b) whether Government have established independent Directorate of ISM and H in various States and UTs for strengthening the system; and

(c) if so, the State-wisc/UT-wise details of powers designated to each Department of ISM and H in opening of new dispensaries, controlling of various Medical and Para-Medical staff, keeping in view the expansion and development of ISM and H in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy has been created in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to develop and propagate Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy. The Research Councils working under this Department have their units in the various parts of the country. A number of National Institute are also functioning under this Department.

(b) 18 State Governments have established separate Directorates of Indian Systems of Medicine in their areas.

(c) As Health is a State subject, concerned State Governments set up dispensaries etc, keeping in view their inter se priorities and financial resources. Control over the medical and para-medical staff is decided by the State Health Departments and the Directorates of ISM and H and this data is not maintained centrally.

Shortage of Immunoglobulin in Delhi

2245. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of anti-rabies serum-immunoglobulin, in the capital city of Delhi; and

(b) if so, what immediate steps have been taken to ensure easy availability of the serum, to prevent deaths due to animal biting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Anti Rabies Serum (ARS) of equine origin is produced only at Central Research Institute, Kasauli and is supplied to the indentors by them. Imported purified equine rabies immunoglobulins (ERIG) and human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG)